

**Westminster Higher Education Forum policy conference:
Next steps for knowledge exchange in higher education and research in England**

Timing: Morning, Monday, 23rd November 2026

*****Taking place online*****



**WESTMINSTER
HIGHER EDUCATION
FORUM**

Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 Registration
- 9.00 **Chair's opening remarks**
Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe
- 9.05 **'The current landscape for knowledge exchange: emerging trends and future opportunities'**
Dr Stuart Wilkinson, CEO, Knowledge Exchange UK
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 **Implementing Higher Education Innovation Funding priorities, institutional capacity and knowledge exchange delivery**
HEIF Policies and Priorities 2025-2031 | priorities for investment in knowledge exchange capability and professional expertise | commercialisation, technology transfer and support for spin-outs and start-ups | accountability, funding and institutional sustainability | supporting diverse institutional missions and strengths | leadership, governance and capability | balancing commercial, civic and public benefit objectives | collaboration across the sector and partnership working | measuring economic, social and civic impact | supporting long-term innovation and economic growth
Dr Joe Marshall, Chief Executive, National Centre for Universities and Business
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, specialist university
Senior commentator
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 **Chair's closing remarks**
Baroness Warwick of Undercliffe
- 10.20 Break
- 10.30 **Chair's opening remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
- 10.35 **Strengthening commercialisation, university-business collaboration, and innovation-led growth**
technology transfer and knowledge exchange processes | strengthening pathways from research to application and adoption | investor readiness and access to finance | scaling spin-outs and graduate start-ups | IP, contracting and commercialisation challenges | collaborative R&D partnerships | engagement with SMEs and access to university expertise | emerging technologies, innovation and productivity growth
Adrian Toutoungi, Partner, Winston Taylor
Senior representative, university
Senior representative, spin-out
Senior representative, investment
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.20 **'Future directions of travel on knowledge exchange metrics'**
Dr Simon Hepworth, Director, Knowledge Exchange, Research England
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.45 **Developing innovation clusters and place-based partnerships for long-term growth**
Senior representative, innovation cluster
- 11.55 **Place-based innovation, skills and regional growth**
universities as anchor institutions | collaboration with combined authorities, employers, NHS organisations and local government | supporting local innovation ecosystems and innovation clusters | workforce development and addressing skills shortages | widening access to innovation opportunities and supporting inclusive growth | international engagement and partnership working | measuring economic, social and civic impact | contributions to health, wellbeing and public benefit
Stephanie Smith, Deputy Director, Policy, Russell Group
David Hollis, Knowledge Exchange Manager, University of Warwick
Senior representative, combined authority
Senior representative, employer
- 12.15 Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.40 **Policy priorities for knowledge exchange, innovation and growth**
Dr Maggie McGowan, Deputy Director, Commercialisation, Government Office for Technology Transfer, Department for Business, Innovation, Science and Trade
Questions and comments from the floor
- 13.05 **Chair's and Westminster Higher Education Forum closing remarks**
Senior Parliamentarian
Sean Cudmore, Westminster Higher Education Forum